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SUBJECT The CIA and a Secret War Against Nicaragua

GARRICK UTLEY: There were reports this week that the CIA is organizing a paramilitary force to fight a secret war against Nicaragua. The Reagan Administration refuses to confirm or deny whether that is true, but it has happened before.

The CIA's last secret war was in Angola, in Africa. That was seven years ago. There, too, there was fighting among rival political factions, and the side backed by Cuba and the Soviet Union seemed to be heading for victory. Our story tonight is about one American caught up in that secret war. His name is Gary Aker, and his family is still waiting for him to come home.

WOMAN: We'd always go to the zoo, which was always fun. Gary'd wear this hat, and he always -- when he was small, he had a great big hat. All you could see was the big hat walking down the sidewalk and this little bitty kid in it. And when you'd put him up in front of the cage, you know, this cat would just -- all of a sudden, he'd get really wide-eyed and notice Gary. He didn't notice anybody else but Gary in this hat. It really caught his fancy and made him all excited.

UTLEY: For the past six years, the little boy in the white hat has himself been in a cage in Africa, imprisoned by forces he may not yet fully understand. One of them, the Central Intelligence Agency.

JOHN STOCKWELL: It was a suicidal situation.

UTLEY: John Stockwell was in charge of the CIA's Angola task force. He later resigned to protest what the agency did there.